

Sinclair Broadcasting's actions in forcing their stations to air the anti-Kerry pseudo-documentary as part of the Republican party's shameful but predictable "October Surprise" is clearly un-American. This is pure partisan politics accomplished by using the public airwaves.

This is clearly a consequence of media consolidation. "We The People" own the airwaves. Sinclair is granted use of the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and the politics of those large companies and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.